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Sen. PO &
CS Comm.

13 July 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel
Deputy Director (Support)
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Briefing of Former Senator Guy M. Gillette of the
Senate Subcommittee on Government Employees
Security Program on Use of the Polygraph in CIA

1. On 13 July 1955, Mr. Pforzheimer and myself briefed former Senator Guy Gillette, Mr. Paul Hadlick, Mr. Hubert Finzell, and Mr. Edens on the use of polygraph in CIA. The briefing followed the outline as set forth in the 22 June 1955 memorandum from Colonel Edwards with the exception that the case examples were not mentioned. The interview was friendly and committee representatives expressed confidence in the manner in which CIA was handling the polygraph. Mr. Gillette asked if this Agency would prepare a memorandum on the use of the polygraph which the Committee might place in their record. Mr. Gillette further advised that in the event the Committee desired to make a public statement in regard to the use of the polygraph in Government, the Committee would first consult with CIA prior to the release of any CIA information.

2. The essence of questions and interest by the Committee representatives was directed to the controls over the information obtained in the course of the polygraph interviews and the policy and procedures in effect in this Agency to prevent any abuses in the use of the polygraph or compromise of any information resulting therefrom. The Committee representatives stated that their interest centered around whether widespread use of the polygraph would permit abuses and whether the results of polygraph testing warranted the use of the instrument.

3. The Committee representatives were advised that this Agency considered the polygraph to be an indispensable adjunct to its security program, and that in view of the peculiar and unusual security requirements attendant on CIA intelligence operations and related activities, the polygraph has proven itself to be of tremendous value. In response to a question, the Committee representatives were advised that this Agency would not recommend, and in our opinion, did not feel that the polygraph was necessary and applicable to all Government departments, but that it had a particular value to those agencies engaged in sensitive intelligence operations.

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At the conclusion of the briefing, Mr. Gillette expressed his confidence in the manner in which this Agency was handling the polygraph program. He further advised that he did not desire to call representatives of this Agency as witnesses before the Committee, and that a statement of use of the polygraph by this Agency would be ample for their needs. Mr. Gillette further expressed his appreciation for the briefing and the information furnished to his Committee.

5. A statement on the use of the polygraph is being prepared.

Robert L. Bannerman
Deputy Director of Security

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